

REMARKS

The Amendments

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the substance of previous dependent claim 12 and the previously intervening claims 8 and 10. The Office Action indicated that the subject matter of claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten to include the base claim and intervening claims. Amended claim 1 is previous claim 12 rewritten in this manner. Note that the $\lambda/2$ or two $\lambda/4$ layers of previous claim 12 are the birefringent layer of previous claim 8, as made clear in the disclosure; see, e.g., Table 1, page 18. The claims are otherwise amended to address the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection, correct minor informalities and to put the claims in a form more customary to US practice. These latter amendments do not narrow the claims' scope. Support for the new dependent claims is found in the disclosure, for example, see: pages 15-16; and, pages 30-31.

To the extent that the amendments avoid the prior art or for other reasons related to patentability, competitors are warned that the amendments are not intended to and do not limit the scope of equivalents which may be asserted on subject matter outside the literal scope of any patented claims but not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art or otherwise unpatentable to applicants. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing and/or divisional applications directed to any subject matter disclosed in the application which has been canceled by any of the above amendments.

The Specification

The specification has been reviewed as requested in the Office Action but no changes were deemed necessary. The title, however, has been amended to be more specific, as requested in the Office Action. As to the format of the specification, it is noted that the rule referred to in the Office Action is not a requirement but merely suggested. Applicants submit that the disclosure is proper and compliance to the suggested format is not required for this proper disclosure.

The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is believed rendered moot by the amendment of claim 3 above.

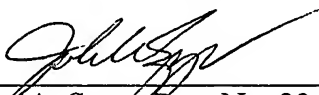
The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejection of claims 1-11 and 20-24 over Welzen (EP 727,691) and the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 13-24 over Sato (EP 463,816) under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness are also believed to be rendered moot. Claim 12 was not rejected. As stated in the Office Action, previous claim 12 rewritten in independent form incorporating the intervening claims was allowable. Claim 1 is such rewritten claim and all the other claims depend, ultimately, from claim 1. Thus, the rejections should be withdrawn.

It is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. However, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any unresolved matters.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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